

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 EUR-25 /147 W

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R 270933Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 287

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR KS US SU KN

SUBJECT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON DEFENSE AND DIPLOMACY

REF SEOUL 6531

1. ON SEPTEMBER 26 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROCEEDED  
TO INTERPELLATIONS ON DEFENSE AND DIPLOMACY.

2. DEFENSE MINISTER YU CHAE-HUNG SAID, IN REPLY  
TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE MILITARY MODERNIZATION PLAN,  
THAT IT WAS OVER HALF COMPLETED AND WOULD BE  
FULFILLED BY 1976. THIS WAS A CORRECTION OF AN  
EARLIER STATEMENT IN WHICH YU SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH  
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF USG HAD PROMISED TO DO ITS  
BEST, COMPLETION OF MODERNIZATION PLAN WOULD  
PROBABLY BE DELAYED BY SEVERAL YEARS OWING TO  
AMERICAN DOMESTIC SITUATION. ONLY CORRECTED VERSION  
WAS REPORTED BY MEDIA.

3. DEFENSE MINISTER WAS ASKED TO EXPLAIN DEPUTY  
SECRETARY CLEMENT' COMMENT THAT EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL  
OF US TROOPS IS RELATED TO THE MILITARY THREAT  
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RATHER THAN TO FULFILLMENT OF MODERNIZATION PLAN.

YU SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE IT TO MEAN THAT US FORCES WOULD REMAIN IN KOREA AS LONG AS THE THREAT REMAINED, EVEN AFTER MODERNIZATION WAS COMPLETED.

4. ASKED ABOUT AUGUST 28 NORTH KOREAN STATEMENT DEMANDING REPLACEMENT OF SOULTH'S REPRESENTATIVES ON COORDINATING COMMITTEE, UNIFICATION MINISTER KIM YONG-SON SAID HE VIEWED IT AS AIMED AT AVOIDING A DIALOGUE BUT NOT AT TERMINATING DIALOGUE. REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION, UNIFICATION MINISTER SAID SOUTH-NORTH JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS STILL ALIVE INASMUCH AS HOTLINE IS STILL OPERATIONAL AND LOUDSPEAKER PROPAGANDA AND LEAFLET DRIPS REMAIN SUSPENDED.

5. ASKED ABOUT ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE TO DATE, KIM NOTED (A) IT HAS EXPOSED THE FLAWS IN A SENTIMENTAL APPROACH TO UNIFICATION; (B) IT HAS IMPROVED THE ROK'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE; AND (C) IT HAS STARTED TO INTRODUCE A CURRENT OF FREEDOM INTO NORTH KOREA.

6. ONE PRO-GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLYMAN (FORMER AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND KANG MUN-PONG), AND ONE OPPOSITION MEMBER (SONG WON-YONG) RECOMMENDED A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE SOVIET UNION. PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL REPLIED THAT GOVERNMENT IS CONSTANTLY ALERT TO CHANCES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, BUT IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT BASIC ATTITUDES TO CHANGE OVERNIGHT. REPLYING TO A QUESTION ABOUT SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AN ASIAN SECURITY ORGANIZATION, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YUN SOK-HON SAID THE PROPOSAL IS IN THE EARLY TALKING STAGE AND APPEARS AIMED AT CHECKING COMMUNIST CHINA. HE ADDED THAT, IF THE SOVIET UNION PROPOSES SOMETHING CONCRETE, ROKG WILL GIVE IT CAREFUL STUDY.

7. HIGHLIGHT OF SESSION WAS CHUNG IL-HYONG STATEMENT ON KIM TAE-CHUNG REPEATED REFTEL.  
HABIB

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## Message Attributes

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